

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Platform for a device for wetting objects, especially for an incubation/hybridization chamber that is defined by an object support {57} and by the platform {1} arranged at a distance to said object support {57}; said platform comprising a base {3} provided with at least one spacer {7} and a frame {27} carrying said base; ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the base {3} is movably mounted relative to the frame {27} by ~~means of~~ a bearing device {23}, that said bearing device, in a first functional position, maintains the base {3} in such a manner that it projects from the frame {27} and/or the bearing device {23}, and in a second functional position in project in some areas beyond an imaginary plane (E) in which the surface {5} of the base is disposed.

2. (currently amended) Platform according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the bearing device {23} consists of an elastic material – preferably silicone.

3. (currently amended) Platform according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the bearing device {23} is annular in design.

4. (currently amended) Platform according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the bearing device {23} comprises the following areas: a first area {29} which is connected with the frame {27} or, respectively, with its front face {31}, a second area {33} which is connected with the

base (3), and an elastic third area (35) which is arranged between the first area (29) and the second area (33).

5. (currently amended) Platform according to ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the third area (35) has a thinner wall thickness than the first area (29) and/or the second area (33).

6. (currently amended) Platform according to ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the bearing device (23) comprises a projection (43) serving as a pipetting attachment.

7. (currently amended) Platform according to ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the base (3) comprises at least one attachment (37,65).

8. (currently amended) Platform according to ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein at least one supply line exists to the space lying between the base (3) and the object support (57).

9. (currently amended) Platform according to Claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one supply line comprises an opening (21) provided in the surface of the base.

10. (currently amended) Platform according to ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein at least one discharge exists from the space lying between the base (3) and the object support (57).

11. (currently amended) Platform according to Claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one discharge comprises an opening provided in the surface (5) of the base (3).

12. (currently amended) Platform according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 11, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the at least one supply line and/or the at least one discharge is closable – preferably by a membrane (39).

13. (currently amended) Platform according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, characterized by further comprising a holder (67).

14. (currently amended) Platform according to ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 13, wherein the holder is connectable with a basic part (85) preferably ~~swivable~~ pivotably.

15. (currently amended) Method for wetting objects, especially for forming an incubation/hybridization chamber by means of a base being provided with at least one spacer and a platform comprising a frame carrying it and an object support, in particular by ~~means of a platform according to any one of the claims 1 to 14~~ Claim 1, with the following steps:

- Setting the base onto the object support by the frame so that the at least one spacer keeps the base at a distance to the object support and a laterally open space between base and object support is enclosed;
- exertion of a force on the frame of the base so that a bearing device movably connecting the frame and the base lies on the surface of the object support and tightly seals the space between base and object support.